



RIVERBENCH



2019 BEDROCK CHARDONNAY

Estate Grown & Bottled – Santa Maria Valley

COMPOSITION	100% Chardonnay, Clone 4
HARVEST	October 8, 2019
COOPERAGE	100% Stainless Steel
ACIDITY	0.62 g/100ml
PH	3.29
ALCOHOL	14.2%
BOTTLED	March 10, 2020
PRODUCTION	294 cases
PRICE	\$26

90

Wine Enthusiast
December 2022

WINEMAKERS NOTES

Chardonnay is truly one of the world's most versatile varieties, and we love showing it in all its various forms. Our version of the "no oak" trend is a standout representation of the purity of the Chardonnay grape. Crisp and bright, this wine boasts a nose of pineapple and lemon zest thanks to its fermentation in 100% stainless steel tanks. A little time sur lies and partial malolactic fermentation add a richness that balances out that tart fruit, and the palate of pear, starfruit and a hint of cream make this a perfect treat all on its own or paired with a range of foods. This vintage in particular has a gorgeous aroma of freshly cut grass thanks to cooler fermentations, and maybe a little wet river rock mixed in. Enjoy poolside, with brunch, or near the grill with friends.

2019 HARVEST

The old mantra of "slow and steady" reverberated across the 2019 vintage which started with abundant winter precipitation followed by a classically cool summer. The rains we received over winter were 5" above normal, priming our vines for an auspicious budburst in mid-March. Warm spring temperatures accelerated rapid flowering and therefore consistent fruit set, the like of which we had not seen in years. Unusual May showers gave our vineyard crew a formidable challenge of thwarting powdery mildew and botrytis on the vines. We are happy to say they rose to the occasion and kept our fruit some of the cleanest in years despite the late rain and foggy summer to follow. The first grapes for our sparkling wine, the Pinot Meunier, came into the winery on the first of September, a little later than usual. The rest of our still wine grapes followed suit and by the start of October, 95% of the ranch was harvested. The Pinot Noir clones exhibited dark color and rich extraction from the lower-than-expected yields. The real star of 2019 however, was our 15 acres of old vine Chardonnay. The clusters verged on perfection with clean, balanced, concentrated fruit. The cool growing season showcased primary notes of granny smith apple and riverbank minerality that will continue to develop in bottle "slow and steady" long into the future.

